

REMARKS

Claim 1-14 and 19-22 are currently pending, wherein claims 1, 9 and 19 have been amended. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the remarks presented herein below.

In the Office Action of July 8, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9-12, 14, 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stinebruner (USP 6,133,910). The Examiner also rejected claims 7-8, 13 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stinebruner in view of Eyer et al. (USP 5,982,411).

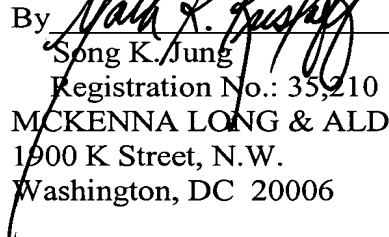
By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 9 and 19, which now recite a combination of features including “wherein said inactive channel is a channel that is not presently carrying a broadcast program; however, the same inactive channel is scheduled to carry a broadcast program at a predetermined later time from a broadcasting station without local viewer interaction; and wherein the inactive channel is capable of being automatically skipped.” Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, either singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the present invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner find the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: October 3, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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